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CANADA
THE MASK
TM
HEY KID!
WHAT THE #$%*! ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?

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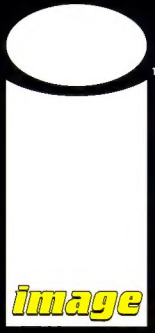

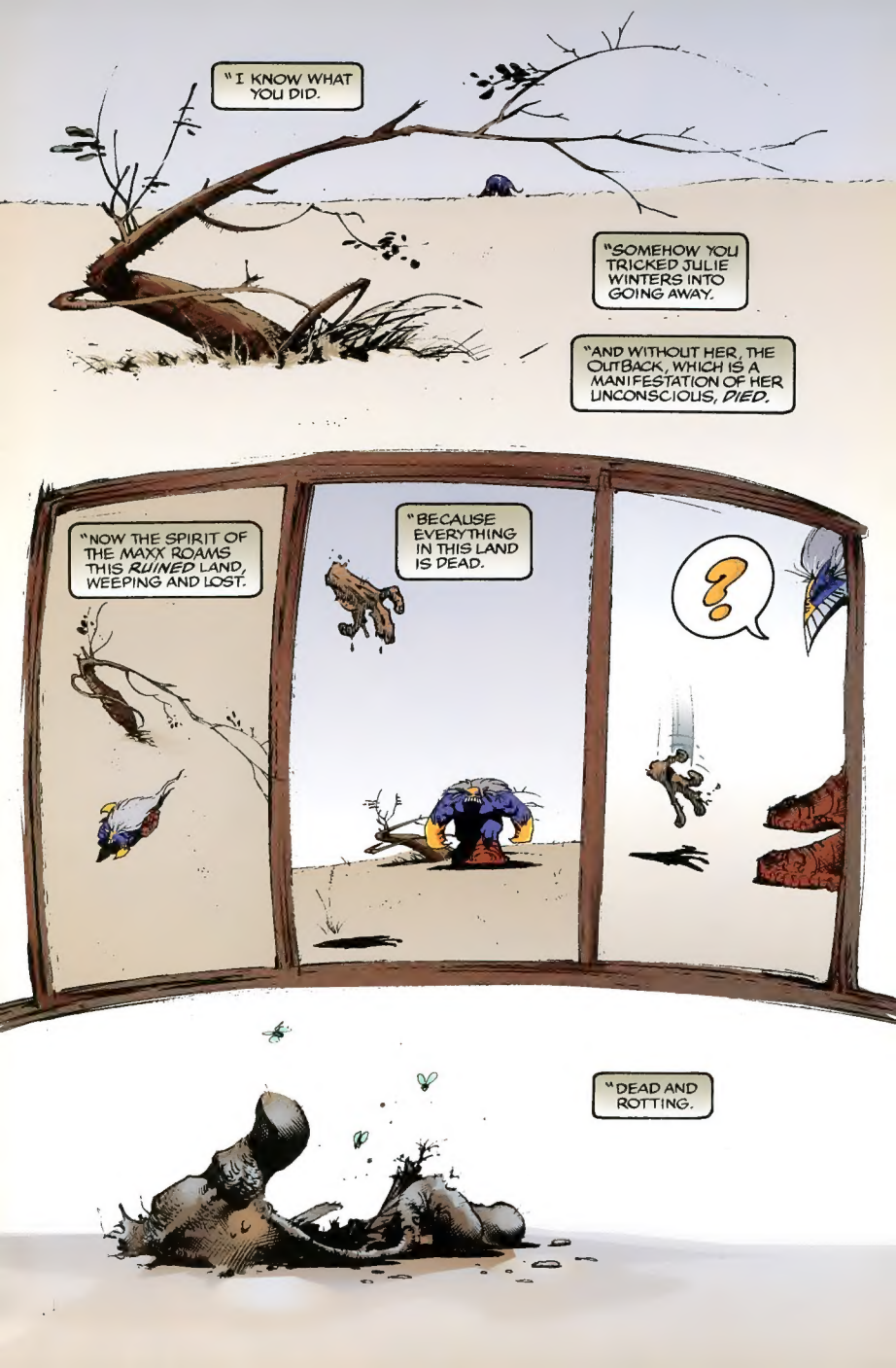
"I KNOW WHAT YOU DID.
"SOMEHOW YOU TRICKED JULIE WINTERS INTO GOING AWAY.
"AND WITHOUT HER, THE OUTBACK, WHICH IS A MANIFESTATION OF HER UNCONSCIOUS, *DIED.*
"NOW THE SPIRIT OF THE MAXX ROAMS THIS *RUINED* LAND, WEEPING AND LOST.
"BECAUSE EVERYTHING IN THIS LAND IS DEAD.
?
"DEAD AND ROTTING.

"AND ON THIS PLANE, THE MAXX IS INCAPACITATED WITH LONELINESS AND GRIEF.
"HE'S CRAWLED INTO A HOLE TO MEDITATE ON HIS IMPOTENCE...
"AND SELF-PITY.
"HE BROODS ON ANGER...
"CAUGHT UP IN FORCES HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND...
"RAGE...
3301
CHUNK
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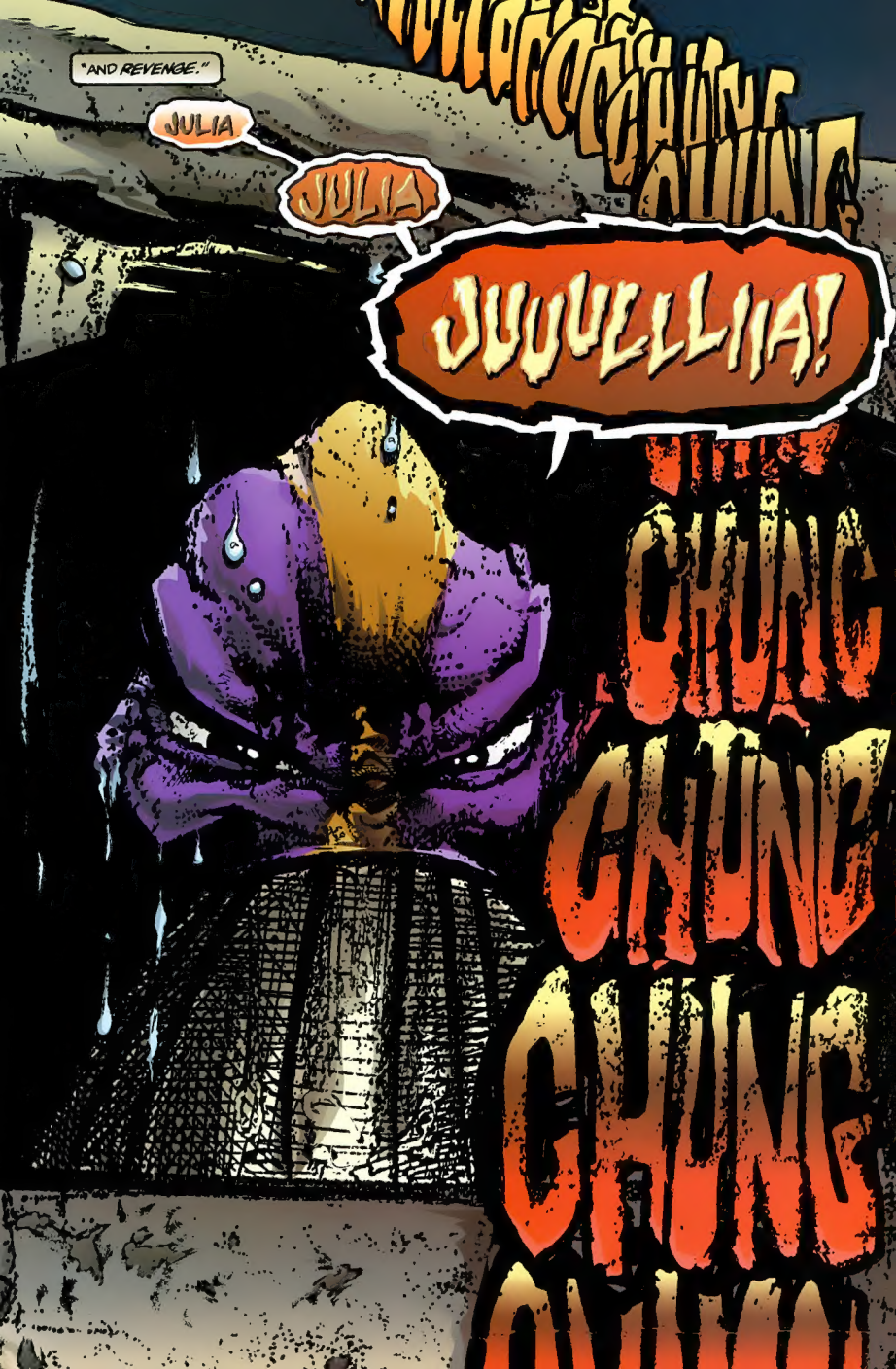
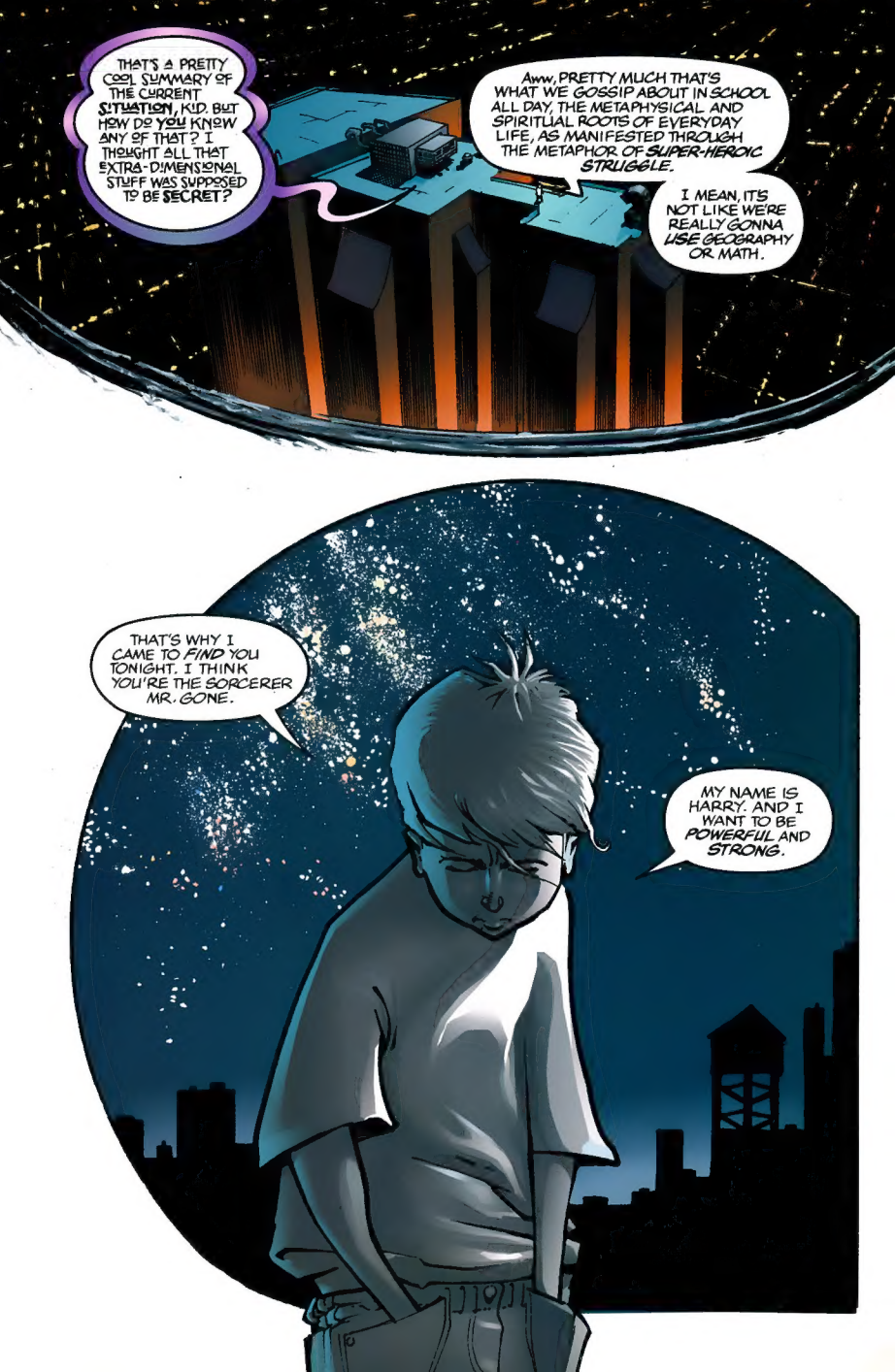
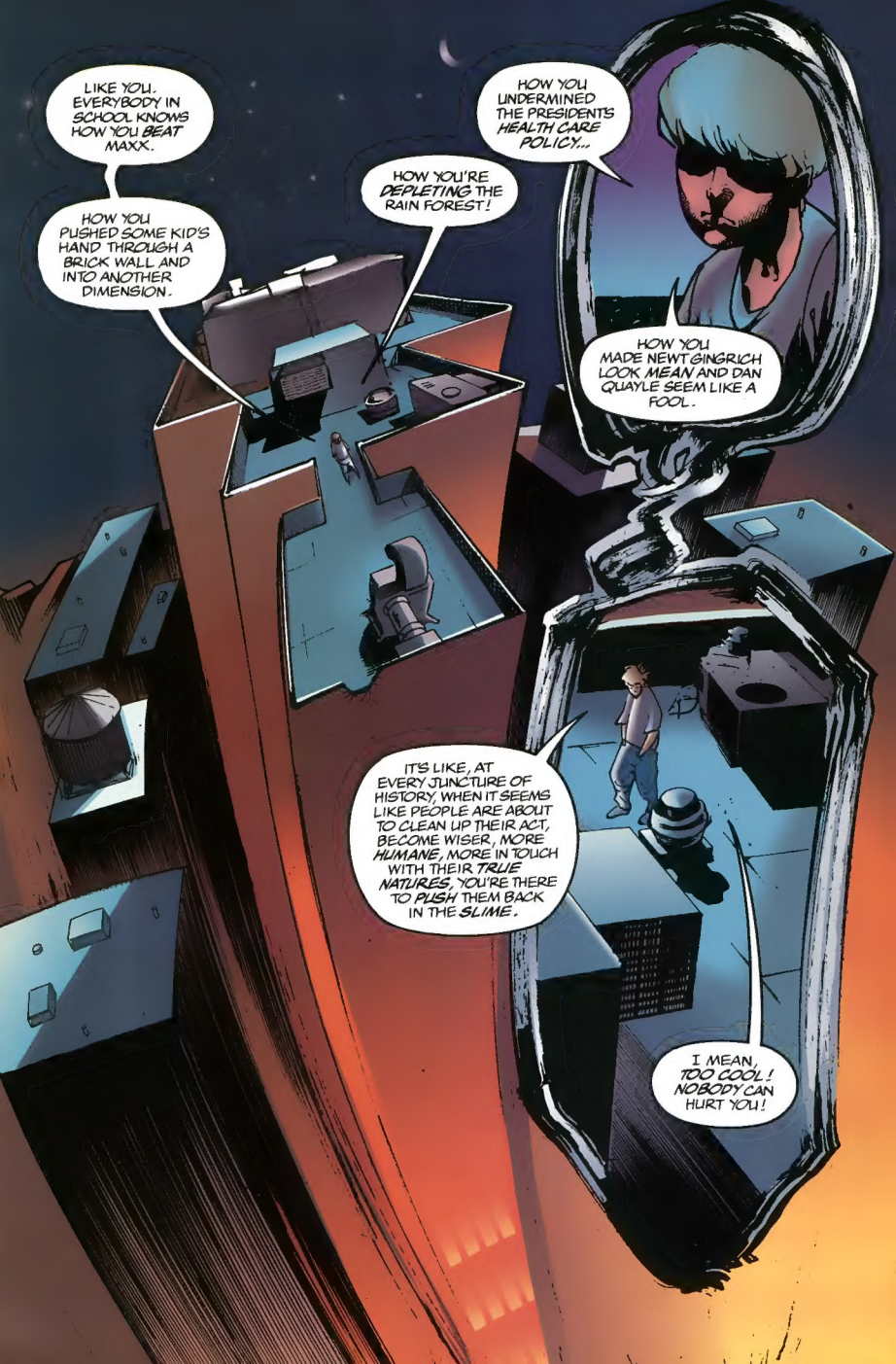
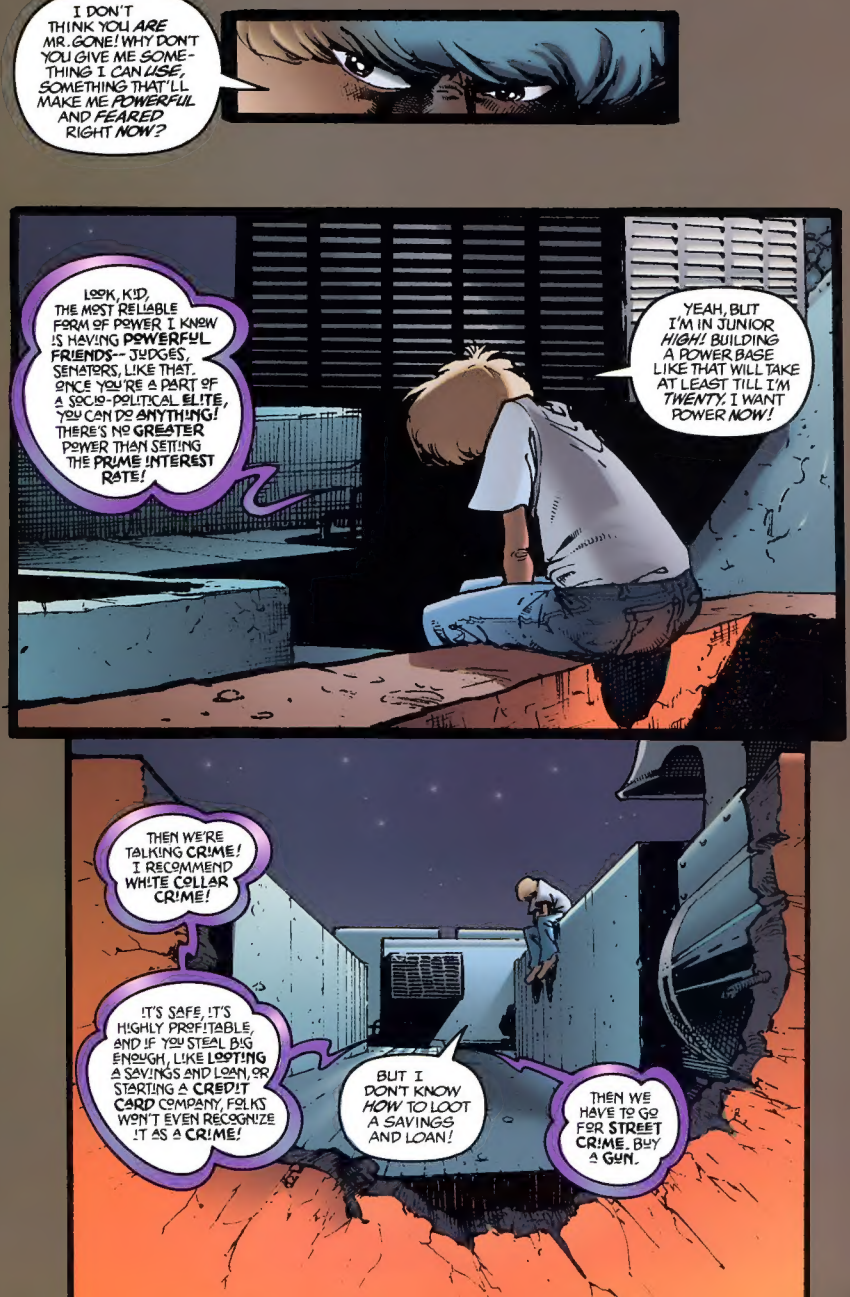
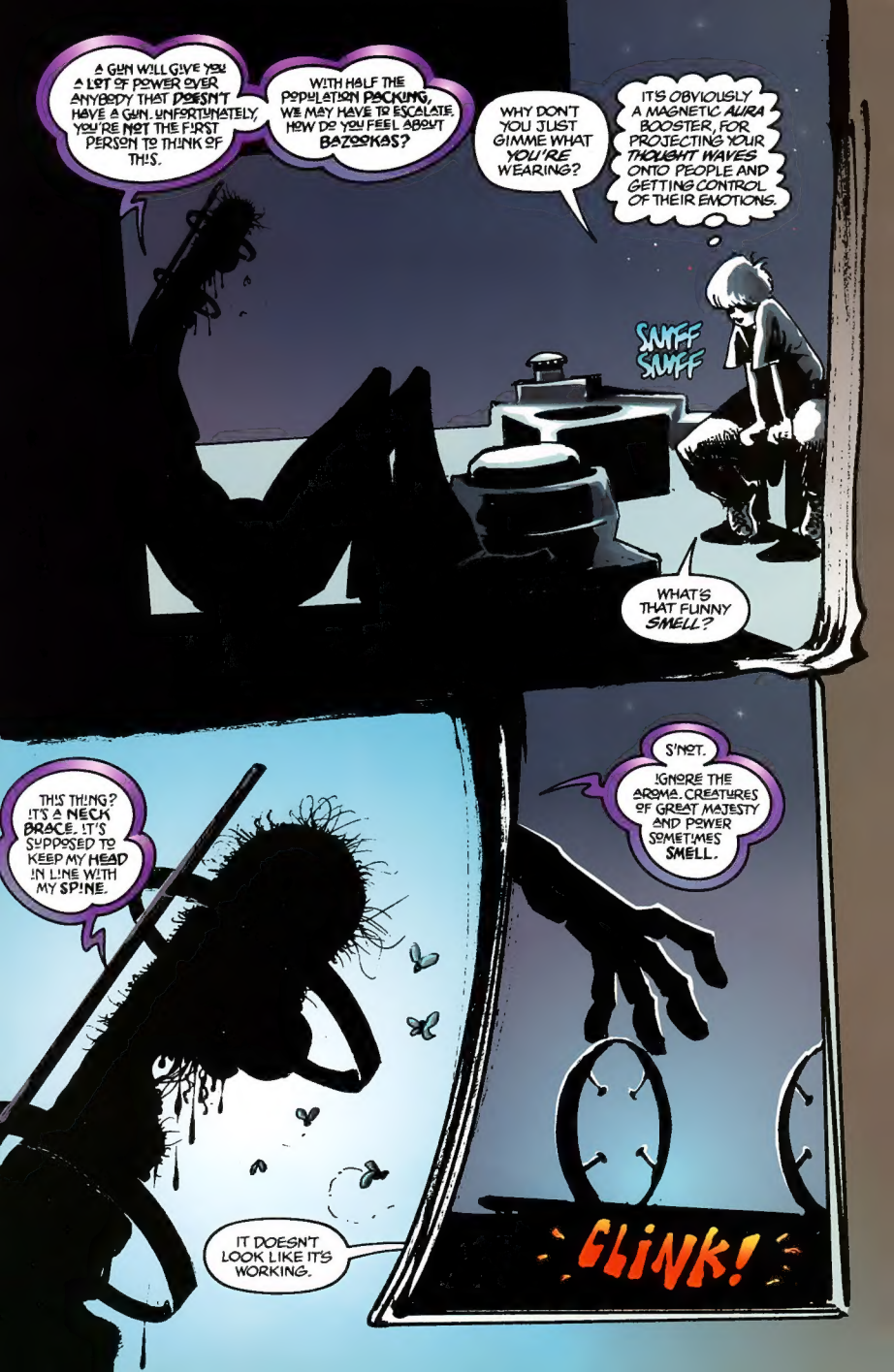

"AND REVENGE."
JULIA
JULIA
JUUUELLIIA!
CHUNG
CHUNG
CHUNG

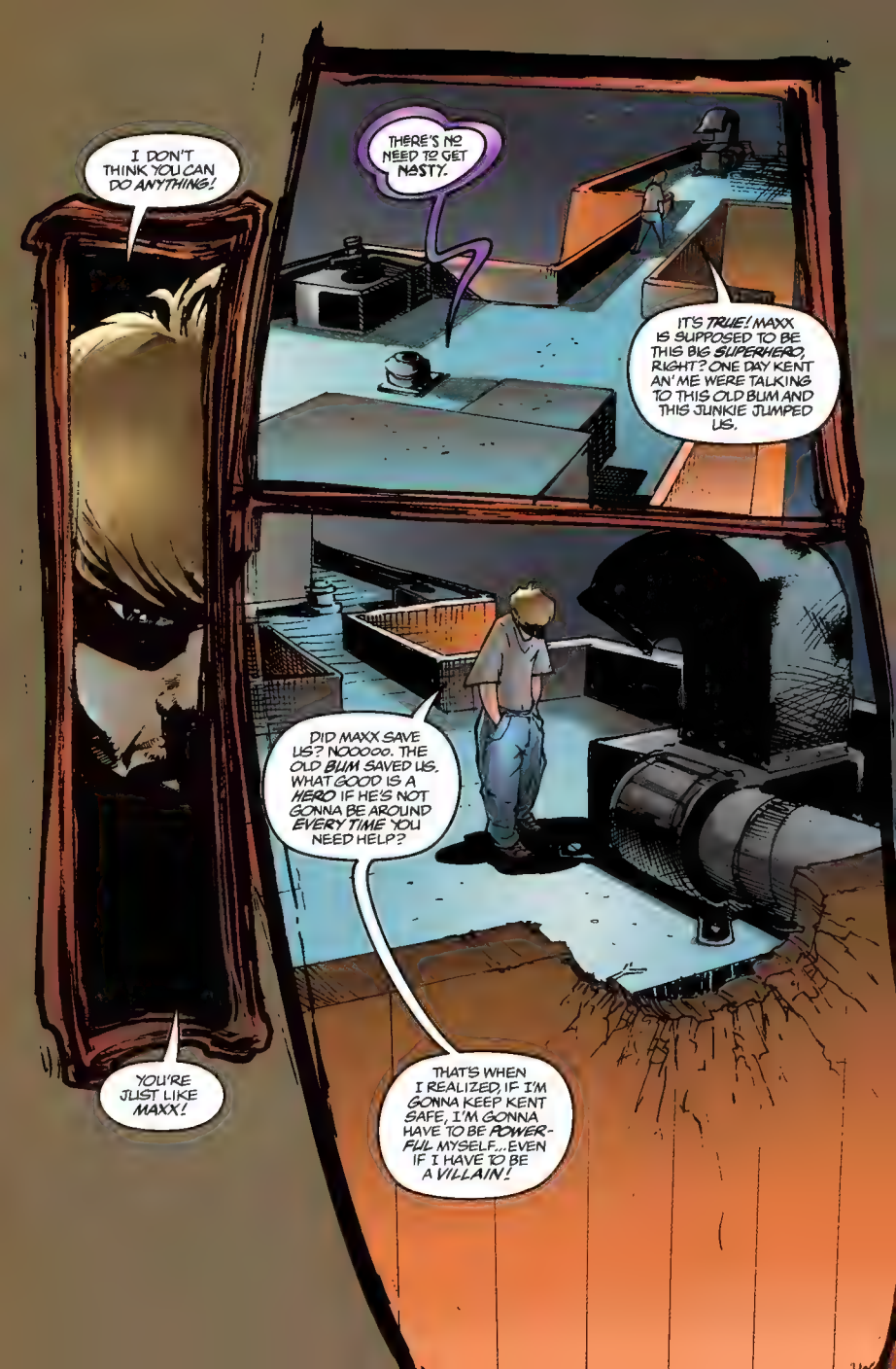

THAT'S A PRETTY COOL SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, KID. BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THAT? I THOUGHT ALL THAT EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL STUFF WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SECRET?
Aww, PRETTY MUCH THAT'S WHAT WE GOSSIP ABOUT IN SCHOOL ALL DAY, THE METAPHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL ROOTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE, AS MANIFESTED THROUGH THE METAPHOR OF SUPER-HEROIC STRUGGLE.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE REALLY GONNA USE GEOGRAPHY OR MATH.
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO FIND YOU TONIGHT. I THINK YOU'RE THE SORCERER MR. GONE.
MY NAME IS HARRY. AND I WANT TO BE POWERFUL AND STRONG.


LIKE YOU. EVERYBODY IN SCHOOL KNOWS HOW YOU BEAT MAXX.
HOW YOU PUSHED SOME KID'S HAND THROUGH A BRICK WALL AND INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION.
HOW YOU'RE DEPLETING THE RAIN FOREST!
HOW YOU UNDERMINED THE PRESIDENTS HEALTH CARE POLICY...
HOW YOU MADE NEWT GINGRICH LOOK MEAN AND DAN QUAYLE SEEM LIKE A FOOL.
IT'S LIKE, AT EVERY JUNCTURE OF HISTORY, WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE ARE ABOUT TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT, BECOME WISER, MORE HUMANE, MORE IN TOUCH WITH THEIR TRUE NATURES, YOU'RE THERE TO PUSH THEM BACK IN THE SLIME.
I MEAN, TOO COOL! NOBODY CAN HURT YOU!

SO, HOW DO YOU GET POWER? WELL...
I GUESS THE EASIEST WAY IS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE ...MOSTLY SELF-KNOWLEDGE. KNOW YOUR WEAKNESSES AND THE WEAKNESSES OF OTH...
HUH? THAT SUCKS! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT CRAP!
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE ANY WEAKNESSES.
REALLY? WELL, ME, MAXX, JULIE, AND EVERYONE ELSE ON THE GLOBE DOES HAVE THEM. EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR YOU, OF COURSE... AND THAT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN EXPLOIT.

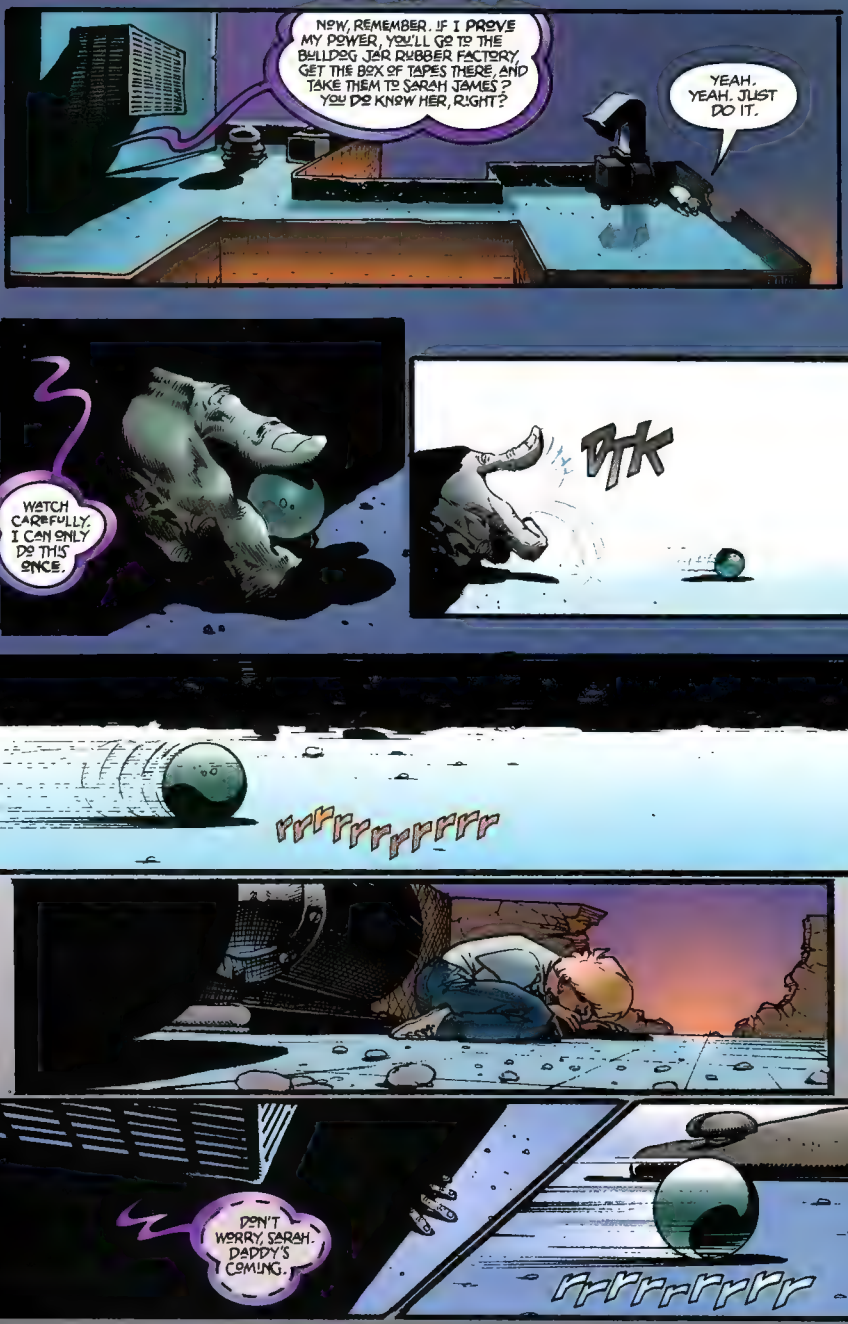

I DON'T THINK YOU *ARE* MR. GONE! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME SOMETHING I CAN *USE*, SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE ME *POWERFUL* AND *FEARED* RIGHT *NOW*?
LOOK, KID, THE MOST RELIABLE FORM OF POWER I KNOW IS HAVING **POWERFUL FRIENDS**-- JUDGES, SENATORS, LIKE THAT. ONCE YOU'RE A PART OF A SOCIO-POLITICAL **ELITE**, YOU CAN DO **ANYTHING**! THERE'S NO **GREATER** POWER THAN SETTING THE **PRIME INTEREST RATE**!
YEAH, BUT I'M IN JUNIOR *HIGH*! BUILDING A POWER BASE LIKE THAT WILL TAKE AT LEAST TILL I'M *TWENTY*. I WANT POWER *NOW*!
THEN WE'RE TALKING **CRIME**! I RECOMMEND **WHITE COLLAR CRIME**!
IT'S SAFE, IT'S HIGHLY PROFITABLE, AND IF YOU STEAL BIG ENOUGH, LIKE **LOOTING** A SAVINGS AND LOAN, OR STARTING A **CREDIT CARD** COMPANY, FOLKS WON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE IT AS A **CRIME**!
BUT I DON'T KNOW *HOW* TO LOOT A SAVINGS AND LOAN!
THEN WE HAVE TO GO FOR **STREET CRIME**. BUY A **GUN**.


A GUN WILL GIVE YOU A LOT OF POWER OVER ANYBODY THAT DOESN'T HAVE A GUN. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST PERSON TO THINK OF THIS.
WITH HALF THE POPULATION PACKING, WE MAY HAVE TO ESCALATE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BAZOOKAS?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIMME WHAT YOU'RE WEARING?
IT'S OBVIOUSLY A MAGNETIC AURA BOOSTER, FOR PROJECTING YOUR THOUGHT WAVES ONTO PEOPLE AND GETTING CONTROL OF THEIR EMOTIONS.
SNIFF SNIFF
WHAT'S THAT FUNNY SMELL?
S'NOT. IGNORE THE AROMA. CREATURES OF GREAT MAJESTY AND POWER SOMETIMES SMELL.
CLINK!
THIS THING? IT'S A NECK BRACE. IT'S SUPPOSED TO KEEP MY HEAD IN LINE WITH MY SPINE.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S WORKING.

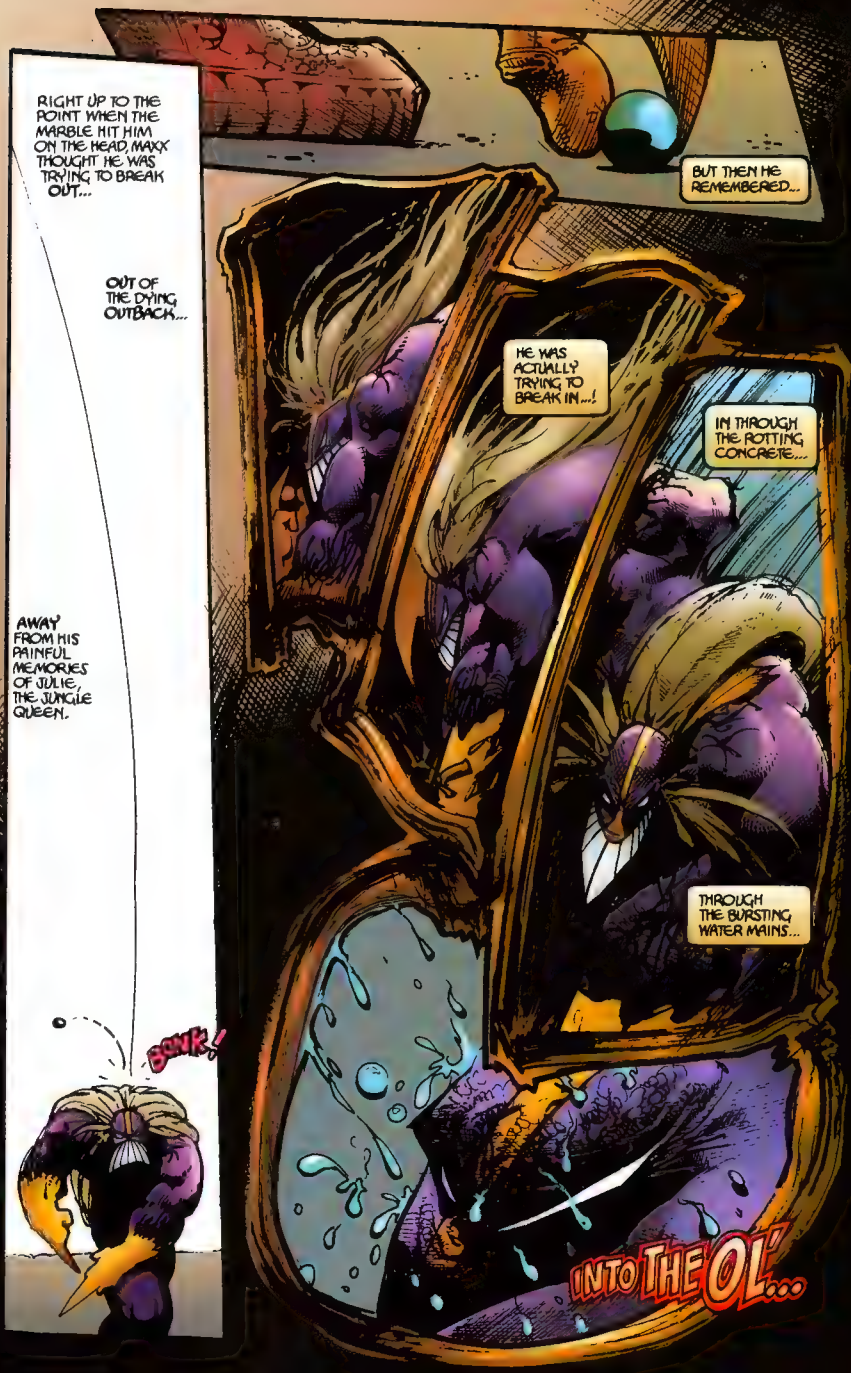

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!
THERE'S NO NEED TO GET NASTY.
IT'S TRUE! MAXX IS SUPPOSED TO BE THIS BIG SUPERHERO, RIGHT? ONE DAY KENT AN' ME WERE TALKING TO THIS OLD BUM AND THIS JUNKIE JUMPED US.
DID MAXX SAVE US? NOOOOO. THE OLD BUM SAVED US. WHAT GOOD IS A HERO IF HE'S NOT GONNA BE AROUND EVERY TIME YOU NEED HELP?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE MAXX!
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED, IF I'M GONNA KEEP KENT SAFE, I'M GONNA HAVE TO BE POWERFUL MYSELF...EVEN IF I HAVE TO BE A VILLAIN!

JILL
I met this guy in a donut shop just outside of Butte, Montana.
He said he was Jack... something. A freelance forensic pathologist.
We laughed about that... Jack and Jill, you know.
THE DONUT HOLE
"IT'S THE QUALITY"
HOTEL
ORDER HERE
I let him pick me up and take me to a cheesy motel.
The sex.
'Cause it WAS good.
The sex, I mean.
The sleaziness made it better somehow.
It was the kind of sex where your body seeps heat and your scalp sweats and you cry out the name of a STUFFED ANIMAL.
PIZZA

Afterwards, when we woke up, Jack seemed different somehow... less playful.
Worried.
Tense.
Of course, it WAS then he realized I took his car.
Yeah. That was probably it.


NOW, REMEMBER. IF I PROVE MY POWER, YOU'LL GO TO THE BULLDOG JAR RUBBER FACTORY, GET THE BOX OF TAPES THERE, AND TAKE THEM TO SARAH JAMES? YOU DO KNOW HER, RIGHT?
YEAH. YEAH. JUST DO IT.
WATCH CAREFULLY. I CAN ONLY DO THIS ONCE.
DIK
rrrrrrrrrrrr
DON'T WORRY, SARAH. DADDY'S COMING.
rrrrrrrrrr

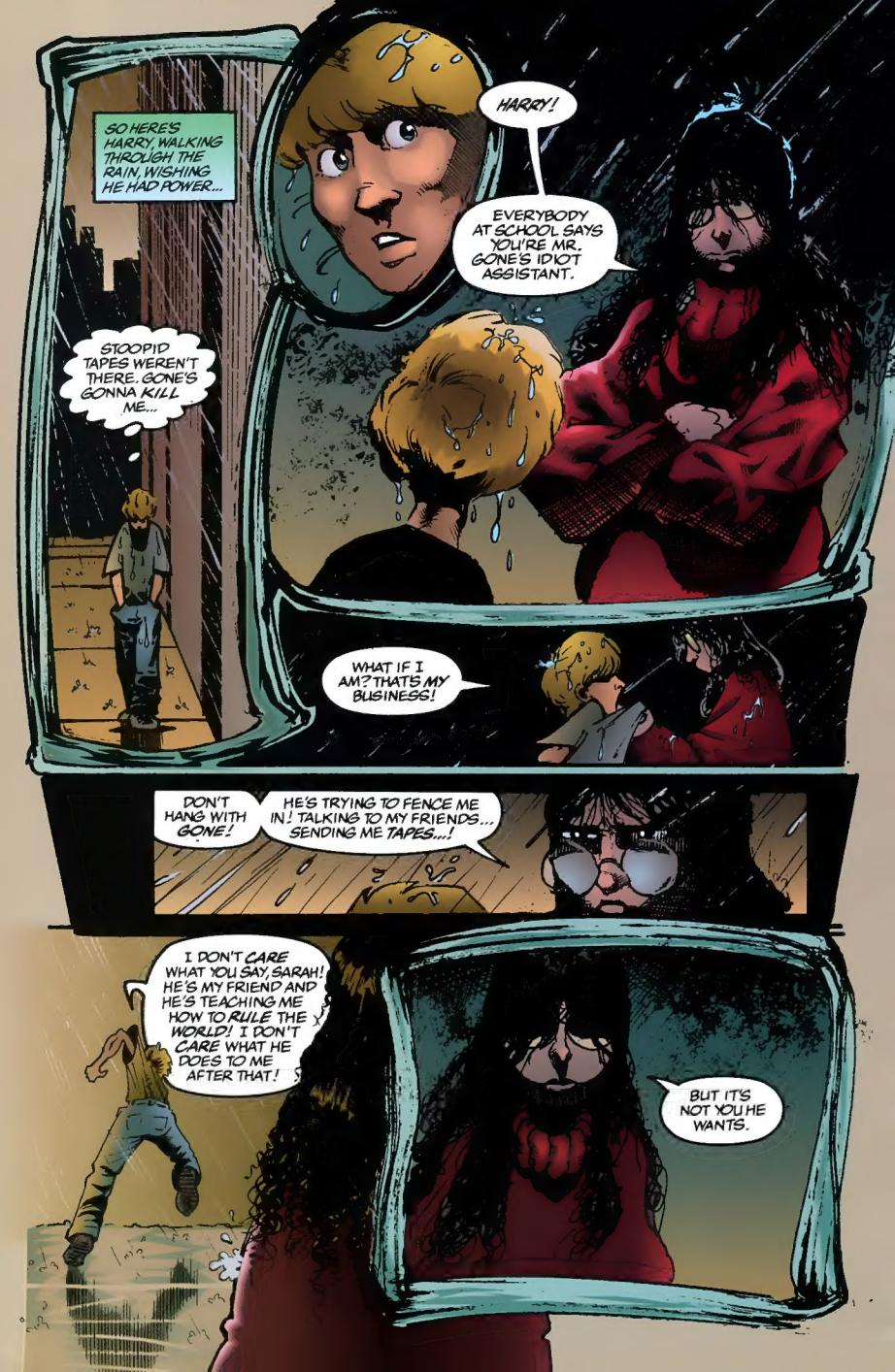
WOW!

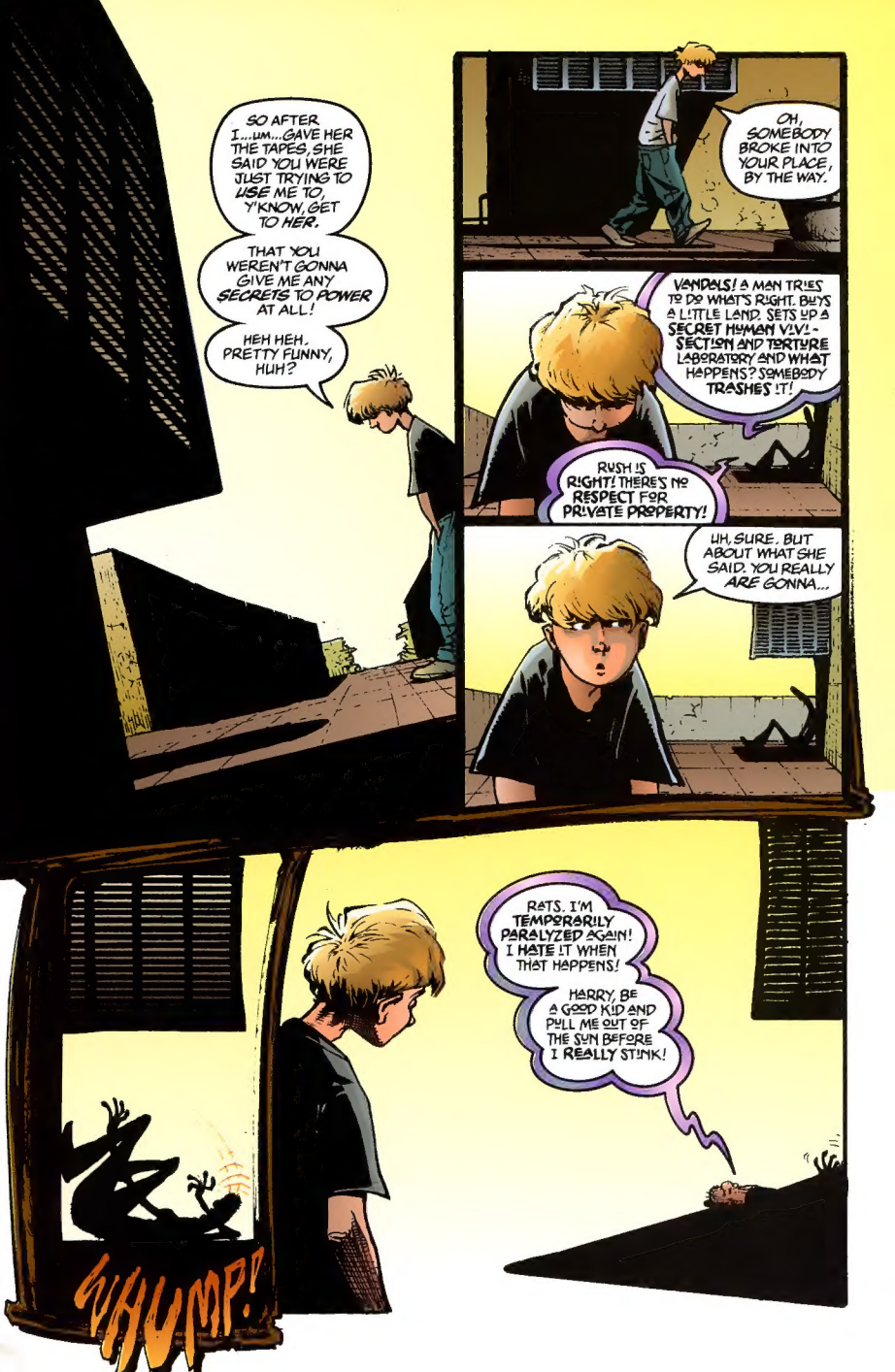

RIGHT UP TO THE POINT WHEN THE MARBLE HIT HIM ON THE HEAD, MAXX THOUGHT HE WAS TRYING TO BREAK OUT...
OUT OF THE DYING OUTBACK...
AWAY FROM HIS PAINFUL MEMORIES OF JULIE, THE JUNGLE QUEEN.
BONK!
BUT THEN HE REMEMBERED...
HE WAS ACTUALLY TRYING TO BREAK IN...!
IN THROUGH THE ROTTING CONCRETE...
THROUGH THE BURSTING WATER MAINS...
INTO THE OL'...

BULL-DOG-JAR-RUBBER-F
THIS SIDE UP
GRRRGH!
HEADQUARTERS (WITH ATTACHED APARTMENT AND WALK-IN KITCHEN) TO MR GONE, DEMON PRINCE OF EVIL!
MUH, TAPES...

CLIC
SO, YOU SEE, SARAH... I HAD TO GIVE THAT PURPLE MUD-PUPPY A REAL VILLAIN TO FIGHT OR HIS LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN MEANINGLESS. SO I CREATED THIS MR. GON—
!RZZT!
KAAAAK!

DO YOU THINK THESE WIRE-RIMS AND THE STRAIGHTER HAIR MAKE ME LOOK MORE LIKE JULIE, MAXX?
OR IS IT JUST TOTALLY A LOST CAUSE?
AND THERE'S NO POINT LURKING OUTSIDE, MAXX. IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T KNOW YOU'RE THERE.
SNOOT.
THE STAND
HERE.
THEY'RE FROM YOUR FATHER. I DECIDED NOT TO BURN THEM ALL.
MY FATHER? MR. GONE?!
WAIT, MAXX. I DON'T WANT THESE. MAXX...!
AARGGHGH!
SOMEBODY'S GONNA SUFFER FOR THIS!


SO HERE'S HARRY, WALKING THROUGH THE RAIN, WISHING HE HAD POWER...
HARRY!
EVERYBODY AT SCHOOL SAYS YOU'RE MR. GONE'S IDIOT ASSISTANT.
STOOPID TAPES WEREN'T THERE. GONE'S GONNA KILL ME...
WHAT IF I AM? THAT'S MY BUSINESS!
DON'T HANG WITH GONE!
HE'S TRYING TO FENCE ME IN! TALKING TO MY FRIENDS... SENDING ME TAPES...!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, SARAH! HE'S MY FRIEND AND HE'S TEACHING ME HOW TO RULE THE WORLD! I DON'T CARE WHAT HE DOES TO ME AFTER THAT!
BUT IT'S NOT YOU HE WANTS.


SO AFTER I...UM...GAVE HER THE TAPES, SHE SAID YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO USE ME TO, Y'KNOW, GET TO HER.
THAT YOU WEREN'T GONNA GIVE ME ANY SECRETS TO POWER AT ALL!
HEH HEH. PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?
OH, SOMEBODY BROKE INTO YOUR PLACE, BY THE WAY.
VANDALS! A MAN TRIES TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. BUYS A LITTLE LAND. SETS UP A SECRET HUMAN V.I.V. - SECTION AND TORTURE LABORATORY AND WHAT HAPPENS? SOMEBODY TRASHES IT!
RUSH IS RIGHT! THERE'S NO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY!
UH, SURE. BUT ABOUT WHAT SHE SAID. YOU REALLY ARE GONNA...
RATS. I'M TEMPORARILY PARALYZED AGAIN! I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAPPENS!
HARRY, BE A GOOD KID AND PULL ME OUT OF THE SUN BEFORE I REALLY STINK!
THUMP!

SURE, BUT...
YOU AREN'T JUST USING ME...
RIGHT?
OF COURSE I'M USING YOU! EVERYBODY USES EVERYBODY! WHAT PLANET DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ON?
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIGGIN' POWER SECRETS! YOU FELL FOR THAT? I JUST KNOW WHERE A COUPLE OF THE DIMENSIONAL PORTALS ARE. I MAKE UP THE REST! ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD THINK I'VE GOT REAL SUPER-POWERS!
NOW GROW UP AND DRAG ME OUT OF THE DAMN SUN...!

MY ONE FLAW AS AN ARCH-FIEND WAS ALWAYS AN EXCESS OF CANDOR.
SPLAT
SNCH.
THE REALLY SAD THING IS THAT DIDN'T KILL ME. IT JUST REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HURT.
HI, HARRY. SARAH SAID YOU MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE.
ANYTHING BAD HAPPENING UP HERE?
NO, MAXX. THERE'S NOTHING UP HERE AT ALL.